



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 40, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 2004

Whole No.153

## President's Report

By David Zemer

### Membership Payments to be easier in 2005 for non-USA Residents

I have lived outside the United States for a number of years, beginning in 1948 when our family moved to the Canal Zone and then again in 1972 when I moved from the United States to Europe. A major problem that I have faced when living outside the United States is paying for goods and services outside my country of residence. Since most countries have their own currencies I have had to pay high fees each time I have had to purchase a check in another currency. In addition I normally had to order the check at a bank and then pick it up at a later date. A method I have used to avoid this is to send cash or travelers' checks by mail if I had the correct amount in the currency of the country in which I was buying something. Many times I have not bought something from another country due to these high fees, the inconvenience of ordering a check or fear of losing cash in the mail.

### Ebay Experience

This was a problem that I faced when I thought about having a membership drive using Ebay, as I wanted to make it as easy as possible for non-U.S. residents to join the Canal Zone Study Group. The most convenient method that I found was to include Paypal as a means of payment.

For over a year now we have used Paypal as one means of payment for new members to pay for their Canal Zone Study Group memberships when joining through Ebay. Because

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## Canal Zone Advertised Covers by Gary B. Weiss and Richard Spielberg



Fig. 1. December 1905 cover from Gorgona to Cristobal CZ, showing ADVERTIZED marking.

Advertised covers represent an unusual service provided by the post office in the "good old days" when the post office went out of its way to provide service. Mail arriving on the Zone was handled as general delivery. Mail that could not be delivered was advertised (in the case of the Canal Zone, in *The Canal Record*). The annual ICC reports for fiscal years ending June 30, 1910, to June 30, 1913, inclusive, 7,528 pieces of mail were advertised, of which delivery was made on about 60%. Lawson P. Entwistle

in his book, *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone* (1992) has done an excellent job documenting the postal markings associated with this service. The second edition lists eleven such markings (pages 106-8) and two more are illustrated in the Addendum (1997), (page 3). Earlier markings stated ADVERTISED, the post office name, and date as part of the marking. In later years UN-CLAIMED was added. In addition, three different single line markings are illustrated on page 151 as well

(continued on page 38)

**CZSG Regional Meetings:**  
**ARIPEX 2005**, Sat. Jan. 22, 2005,  
11AM, Tucson Convention Center,  
260 S. Church St., Tucson, AZ

**WESTPEX 2005**, Sat. April 16, 2005, 12:30PM, San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA. Our 36th consecutive annual meeting at WESTPEX!

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**The Canal Zone  
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**Richard Spielberg, Editor**

4535 Via Del Buey  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
Home: (714) 693-3349  
[richard.spielberg@gte.net](mailto:richard.spielberg@gte.net)

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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**Canal Zone Study Group**

**Recruit a  
New Member!**

**2005 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps by Jim Crumpacker**

The 2005 edition of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue* came out around the middle of October. The major revision is that, with a handful of exceptions, the Canal Zone section is now in color. This fact has imposed other changes. For instance, no image of Scott CZ 4-8 was shown in the 2004 catalogue; it contained a separate illustration of the applicable overprint only. The 2005 catalogue has an image of Scott CZ 4 with the overprint as an integral part of the total picture. The change to color also led to some removals: a massively oversize image of the overprint for the Type V overprint, formerly above Scott CZ 55 in the 2004 catalogue, has been replaced by a photo of a real #55 with proper size overprint.

There were well over 100 price changes in the new catalogue, including more than 15 among the integers, especially in mint. Most moves were minor, some are noted below. Nearly all involved increases, credit that to auction bidders seeking elusive major varieties.

One minor goof happened when calculating totals. Price increases for mint #'s 89, 90, 91, 93, 94 and 95 were noted. However, when it came time to total the "nos. 84-95 (12)" entries the amount was entered as \$488.75, the same as last year, when the correct total is now over \$500.00. This problem exists for at least four other series in the new catalogue.

A listing now appears in 2005 for CO11, block of 4, mint, at \$1250.00. This actually should be for a single stamp without any cancel of any kind.

The #105-114 plate blocks all went up, on the order of 10-15% which I attribute as last year to philatelists trying to start or complete a positional collection at a modest cost.

The dust has settled on postal stationery, with fewer than five changes in 2005 versus major revisions made in 2004.

Everything considered, the editors at Scott's did their usual very commendable job. Shown below are more than 20 of the more interesting changes. Listings for the stamps are for OG, with gum status per the pricing policy by Scott's, unless noted otherwise.

		2005	2004
9d,	double overprint	2750.00	2000.00
12e,	PANAMA overprint inverted, bar at bottom, used	1400.00	1250.00
14f,	rose brown ovpt, "8 cts" double	1100.00	850.00
23b,	vertical pair; one w/o ovpt	2500.00	1750.00
25a,	horiz. pair imperf. between and at L margin, used	4000.00	not listed
45,	on cover	70.00	60.00
46,	light green and black used	180.00	60.00
59,		175.00	160.00
67c,	Se-tenant pair #67a and 67b	2750.00	not listed
74,	used	7.50	8.50
84a,	CANAL only	2250.00	1600.00
94,		240.00	225.00
100a,	vertical pair, one w/o ovpt	5500.00	4000.00
115c,	booklet pane of 6, handmade	175.00	210.00
133,		14.00	12.00
157a,	hinged	5500.00	not listed for hinged
C20,	used	27.50	22.50
J2,	pl. bl. of 6	2000.00	1750.00
J3,		1000.00	850.00
J17b,	E of POSTAGE omitted	750.00	450.00
J18a,	ZONE ZONE	1750.00	1250.00
OX2,	var., block of 4 cliches 1 1/2 mm apart horiz., 4mm vert.	1400.00	not listed

**Auctions by Jim Crumpacker**

There are only feeble reasons for even presenting a review of Canal Zone philately sold at public auction during the third calendar quarter, July 1-Sept. 30, 2004. Activity was minimal in a period which often can be decently operative. It is depressing to print out a list of prices realized from a computer only to find large gaps in the integers next to which a hammer price for a Canal Zone lot should have been entered. Lots of unsold material out there.

Still, there were some interesting results, as given below. The first price shown is hammer plus the applicable commission and is followed, in parenthesis, by the 2004 catalog value from *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*. Note in passing - that I use the catalog value as entered by the describer for the auction firm, not an updated value. For instance, the price in Scott's for an OG #J3 was \$850 in 2004 but is now \$1000.

8, OG, VLH, XF \$319 (\$150) R.A. Siegel

11, pane of 100, three columns separated, OG, HR to NH, gen. F-VF w/ L & R selvages \$330 (\$n/a), Regency Superior

77, pl. bl. of 6, #14512-L, OG, HR. VF \$440 (\$425) R.A. Siegel

J1, se pair, VF on F cover from Michigan bearing a 1c US stamp, rec'd Balb. Hts. 2/11/15 \$385 (\$290) Regency-Superior

J3, OG, H, F \$385 (\$850) R.A. Siegel

J9, F+ on o/w unstamped F-VF cover from Jamaica 12/5/19, rec'd Cristobal 12/12/19 \$578 (\$200) Regency-Superior

The names and addresses of the auction houses which offered these lots is shown below and one of their names is given after each lot in the above list.

**Regency-Superior Auctions**

229 N. Euclid Ave.

Saint Louis, MO 63108

**Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.**  
60 East 56th St., 4th floor  
New York, NY 10022

## Special Auction Report

### The Leeds Sale

by Jim Crumpacker

On Oct. 1 in New York City, I attended the auction by the Matthew Bennett firm of much of David Leeds' award winning collection of Canal Zone philately. Mr. Leeds, one of the six surviving founding members of CZSG, was born and raised in the Canal Zone and, even after this auction, retains a massive accumulation of Canal Zone material.

The reception, which proceeded the 6:30 p.m. auction, included lamb chops as hors d'oeuvres and put everyone in a fine mood for the auction, which followed. In addition to those attending in person, represented by an agent, or on the telephone, the Bennett firm had put the auction up on Ebay with the result that an operative in the rear of the auction room handled the internet bidders. Some lots were sold via that medium, including the famous Scott Canal Zone #40a, which graced the cover of the 295 lot "name sale", catalog.

At the auction itself, errors and varieties, especially anything unusual or not previously reported, sold very well. Covers, particularly Postage Due covers, soared to outstanding realizations. The only weakness was in Specimen stamps, although the Specimen booklet panes sold nicely and most of the postal stationery Specimens met or exceeded estimates.

What follows is a report on some of the more interesting results. My descriptions as to condition and other factors may differ slightly from that in the auction catalog, as I spent some 5 1/2 hours examining the lots on the day of the auction and still fell far short of viewing every lot. The first price shown is hammer plus 10 for the buyers' commission. The catalog value is shown thereafter, in parenthesis, and is from the 2004 Scott Specialized Catalog.

1d, PANAMA reading down and up, OG, H, VF in TL margins bl. of 4 w/ 3 normals \$2860 (\$2350)

7, pl # strip of 3 with imprint, #1500-L, OG, HR as reinf., almost VF \$743 (\$725)

9d, double overprint, used, VF \$2310 (\$1500)

10b, L of CANAL sideways, used, F \$1760 (\$2500)

15, used, couple pulled perfs o/w F-VF \$4950 (\$4500)

16 var., "1 ct." 1mm above bottom bar and "1" w/ short serifs, OG, NH, VF bl. of 4 \$523 (\$n/a)

19 var., no bar due to shifted ovpt (CZSG 19.12), sl. dist. OG, H, F \$358 (\$n/a)

22c, vert. pair, imperf. horiz., dist. OG, H, VF \$1870 (\$2250)

23g, inverted center and inverted overprint, used, a tiny tear and a few raggedy perfs. o/w F-VF \$4950 (\$6000)

26 var., imperforate bottom margin (CZSG 26.1), OG, HR, VF \$770 (\$n/a)

32c. cpl. bklt. of 4 panes w/ covers intended for 1c stamps, TG (some soak) w/ interl. adhering to 2 panes, o/w F-VF \$2310 (\$n/a)

38b, booklet pane of 6, machine made, pristine OG, NH, XF \$578 (\$625)

39g, booklet pane of 6, handmade, 8 1/2 mm spacing, pristine OG, HR, F-VF \$1210 \$1000

40a, Cordoba portrait of 2c; used, creases and small thins o/w F-VF \$12,100 (\$8750)

47, OG, H, XF \$4400 (\$3250) 56f, ZONE double, OG, NH, F-VF \$2200 (\$1250)

61f booklet pane of 6, TG and a gum skip, HR, o/w XF \$2640 (\$2100)

86f, ZONE only, OG, H, F \$1595 (\$2000)

90, pl. bl. of 4 #17432-R w/ star, sl. dull OG, gum creases. LH, F-VF \$3575 (listed, not priced)

90, pl. bl. of 4 #17433-R w/ star, OG, H, F \$2640 (listed, not priced)

91a ZONE only, OG, H, VF, an se margin copy w/ part arrow \$1760 (\$900) J11Cd, CANAL ZONE reading down, OG, H, F-VF \$308 (\$200)

J18a, ZONE ZONE, OG, HR, almost VF in a bl. of 4 w/ 3 normals, \$1045 (\$1274)

J19a, ZONE ZONE, TG, F-VF in a bl. of 12 w/ 11 normals \$1870 (\$1650)

67, Perf. P, used, a crease o/w F \$1100 (\$n/a)

38, War Tax essay, ovpt'd w/ "T" and "1-c", se, 1pp and some toning, o/w VF \$1210 (\$n/a)

U2b var., mint entire w/head and overprint only (no frame) where expected plus full impression of normal U2 indicia on inside, addressed but not mailed, sl. toning o/w VF \$3575 (\$n/a)

U3, mint entire, mild toning o/w VF \$770 (\$700)

U11a (UPSS), mint entire w/background only, F, \$2200 (UPSS \$3000)

UX6, mint entire, F-VF \$990 (\$725)

UF1 (UPSS R2), mint entire; bit wrinkly o/w VF \$4400 (UPSS \$3000)

U5 var. (UPSS CS 12) unofficial XMAS greeting card, #55 added, 12/3/23 Balb. Hts. to Czechoslovakia, creases o/w F \$1210 (\$n/a)

1, VF+ on VF ppc Bohio 6/30/04 to Colon, Cristobal cds and date, \$1540 (\$1650)

3, VG-F Ancon 7/8/04 on VF fancy advertising cover to Germany \$1650 (\$n/a)

6, F on F cover Matachin 11/16/04 to Turkey, all proper transit and rec'd markings, \$1100 (\$n/a)

33a, double overprint, VG, w/ 39 and 40 on F (one fold) cover, registered from Empire 5/15/14 to U.S. \$1375 (\$n/a)

60-66, all F+ or better on VF cover, Ancon 3/8/22 reg. to Baltimore, \$660 (\$n/a)

J4 (1pp o/w F) and J11 pair, VF, tied by cork cancels 4/24/23 from Honduras w/ a 6c Honduras stamp, cover rough open and a vert. fold, o/w F, rec'd Ancon 5/16/23 \$1155 (\$n/a)

**Articles  
Wanted...  
Contact Editor**

## **President's Report**

it might be inconvenient for members living abroad to renew their Canal Zone Study Group membership in U.S. dollars we will extend the use of Paypal for renewals of our non-USA residents.

If you are a non-USA resident and do not wish to use Paypal to renew your membership then please continue using the methods that you have used in the past.

**Paypal**

Paypal is the banking arm of Ebay. It accepts payments from credit cards or banks in local currencies and transfers the money into a Paypal account of a designated payee. For residents of most countries it is relatively easy to open up a Paypal account on-line. However it appears from their registration information that residents of some countries cannot use this service. If you are residing in a foreign country you can easily find out if you can transfer payments by simply going to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and fill out the information required. If you have no problems registering then you should be able to use Paypal to pay for your membership dues.

## The Colombia - Panama Philatelic Study Group's Paypal Experience

At COPAPHIL, The Colombia – Panama Philatelic Study Group, we started using Paypal for renewals from non-USA residents in 2004. It has gone smoothly and members from at least a half-dozen different countries renewed their memberships in this manner the first year. In addition we also extended this to the purchase of COPAPHIL publications leading to the sale of several of our handbooks.

## **PAYPAL Fees for Membership Payments**

Paypal will charge the Canal Zone Study Group a fee of approximately \$ 0.30 + 4% of the total paid by the member. Therefore we have to require our members to add this fee to their payment if they use Paypal. The total membership dues when paid through Paypal are:

One year membership \$ 8.65  
 Two years membership \$ 16.95  
 Three years membership \$ 25.30

### **Transfer Information**

**Paypal** needs the email address of the payee. For these 2005 membership renewals this address will the

one that I use for Ebay transactions:  
[sosahill@hotmail.com](mailto:sosahill@hotmail.com).

To be sure that we know from whom this payment has come, please add your name, Canal Zone Study Group membership number, and payment period in the appropriate blanks on the Paypal payment form. If you wish to contribute extra as a sustaining or contributing member please be sure to mention this. If you add the additional 4% for the Paypal fee it would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Future Use of Paypal**

If our experience with this year's renewals using Paypal is successful, then the Canal Zone Study Group will consider using it in the future.



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## CZ Advertised Covers

*continued from page 33*

as well as a number of hybrid unclaimed markings on page 142.

While these markings (and this service) are very interesting in their own way, covers with these markings may be even more interesting. One of us (GBW) was excited about four of the Leeds covers as rare postage due usages rather than as advertised covers. Surprisingly, no advertised covers have yet been illustrated in *CZP*. This deficiency will now be rectified.

The earliest examples illustrated by Entwistle are from 1907. The earliest example we can illustrate from 1905 is shown in Fig. 1. This cover was part of a huge lot (cover remainders from the Elmer Brink collection) auctioned by Regency at StampShow in Sacramento this summer. The cover was mailed from Gorgona, December 17, 1905 to Cris-

tobal and franked with Scott No. 11. The Cristobal receiving mark on the reverse is the same day. On the front is a straight line ADVERTIZED marking, Entwistle MisN - 27b and a January 5, 1906 cancel, the hybrid format expected for the early markings. The February 1909 cover (Fig. 2, from the Salz collection) mailed from Pedro Miguel shows the straight line ADVERTIZED, UNCLAIMED (Entwistle Unc -1), and date markings from Ancon.

The next cover (Fig. 3) was the final lot (No. 295) in the Leeds sale and sold well below the estimate. It was mailed from Panama, March 15, 1909 to Gorgona and has a March 17 Gorgona receiving mark on the reverse. Although the advertising marking is described in the auction catalog as an unrecorded marking, this very marking was illustrated by Entwistle as Ad-4, which notes that a similar marking is known for

Bas Obispo. The cover is stained; the marking is a purple-black color.

The 1911 cover from Elizabeth N. J. (Fig. 4) reverse shows a July 19 Colon transit and July 19 Cristobal receiving markings and August 12 ADVERTISED (Entwistle Ad-1a) marking.

The cover shown in Figs. 5 and 6 is included in the Weiss exhibit of Canal Zone postage dues where the back (Fig. 6) is displayed. It is underpaid mail from Jamaica (December 18, 1913) and was charged 6c postage due in Ancon January 19, 1914 after the recipient was located; 1c and 5c Seventh Series stamps with Type II overprints (Scott No. 39 and 40) were used for postage due, an unusual usage of these stamps. On the front is a blue January 14 Pedro Miguel ADVERTISED / UNCLAIMED marking; this is the discovery (by Paul Kravitz) copy illustrated in Entwistle as Ad-5a.

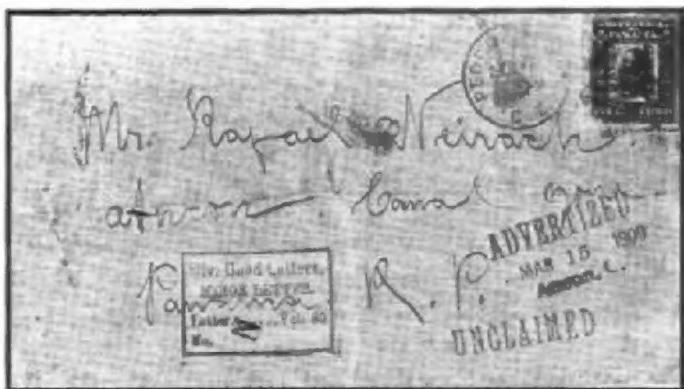


Fig. 2. February 1909 cover from Pedro Miguel shows the straight line ADVERTIZED (Entwistle MisN-27b), UNCLAIMED (Entwistle Unc -1), and date markings from Ancon.



Fig. 3. March 15, 1909 cover from Panama, to Gorgona CZ has a March 17 Gorgona receiving mark on the reverse, and Entwistle as Ad-4, advertised marking.



Fig. 4. July 10, 1911 cover from Elizabeth N. J. to Colon, shows a July 19 Colon transit and July 19 Cristobal receiving markings and Entwistle Ad-1a, August 12 ADVERTISED and UNCLAIMED (Entwistle Unc-2, on reverse) markings.



Fig. 5. December 18, 1913 underpaid mail cover from Jamaica, shows a blue January 14 Pedro Miguel advertised marking (Entwistle as Ad-5a)

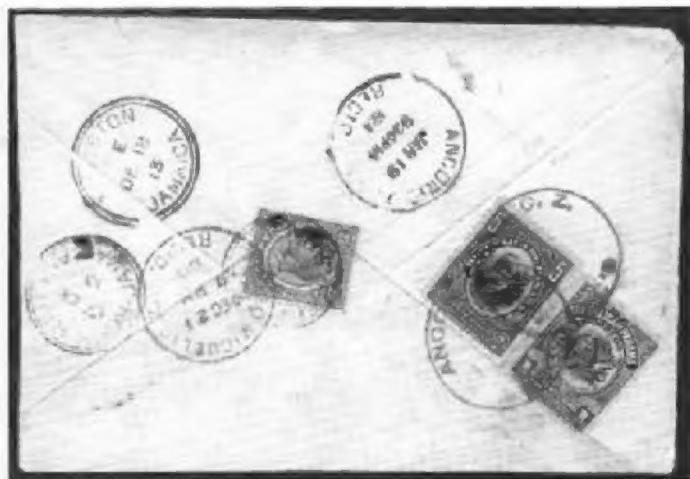


Fig. 6. Reverse of cover in Fig. 5., charged 6c postage due, paid with 1c and 5c CZ Type II overprints stamps, in Ancon January 19, 1914 after the recipient was located.



Fig. 7. June 10, 1920 cover from Hanoi, Indo China to Gatun, the black September 30, 1920 Gatun advertised marking resembles Entwistle Ad-5f, but with hand-written date.

The wonderful cover in Fig. 7 was part of a large lot of postage due covers recently sold by Shreves. The cover from Hanoi, Indo China June 10, 1920 to Gatun (date of receiving mark on reverse is unclear). Postage due was paid with a strip of three Scott No. J10. The black September 30, 1920 Gatun advertised marking resembles Entwistle Ad-5f but differs in that the date is hand-written instead of being part of the hand-stamp. This differs from all of the markings listed in Entwistle.

The Leeds auction included four lots of unpaid mail from Barbados to the Zone (lots 291-294). Each had postage due paid with a 10¢ due (Scott No. J14 or J20). Commercial usage of J14 is a major rarity while J20 is

very scarce. The two J14 covers are spectacular because they also have rare advertised markings. The first of these covers (Fig. 8) is from St. Peter, July 14, 1924 to Ancon; the September 16, 1924 magenta Ancon advertised marking is similar to Entwistle Ad-1 except that it lacks the periods after CZ and the date is smaller and a different type style. The other J14 cover, also from St. Peter, August 6, 1924 is to Cristobal (Fig. 9). Although the auction description states that the Cristobal (October 1, 1924) purple advertised marking is unrecorded, this is the same marking illustrated as AD-5f in the 1997 supplement to Entwistle. The first J20 cover (Fig. 10) is from St. Andrew, January 31, 1927 to Ancon, February 14 and has

magenta May 16 advertised marking Ad-1. The second J20 cover (Fig. 11) is from St. James, February 7, 1927 to Gatun with February 27 receiving mark on reverse. The March 31, 1927 Gatun advertised mark is again described as unrecorded in the auction catalog but is the marking illustrated as Ad-5e in the Entwistle supplement.

These covers are all of interest to any CZ postal history collector and are a reminder of an era when the postal service really cared. Examples of other unusual advertised covers are desired by the editor for illustration in a future CZP.

(continued on next page)



Fig. 9. August 6, 1924 St. Peter cover to Cristobal with purple October 1, 1924 advertised marking (Entwistle AD-5f).



Fig. 10. January 31, 1927 cover from St. Andrew Barbados, to Ancon, with a magenta May 16 advertised marking (Entwistle Ad-1).

Fig. 11. February 7, 1927 cover from St. James Barbados, to Gatun, (with February 27 receiving mark on reverse) with a March 31, 1927 Gatun advertised mark (Entwistle Ad-5e).



## 2004 CZSG Mail Sale Report by Tom Brougham

Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Mail Sale was completed on schedule and made a profit of about \$1,100.

This Sale was smaller than the average of past Sales. There were 813 lots. The total of catalog values or estimates was \$102,548 — higher than the average recorded for past Sales—but that was largely because I tended to list the full catalog values of damaged items and of wholesale lots rather than substituting estimates. Thirty-four CZSG members consigned material and there were 154 bidders. One hundred twenty bidders were successful in buying one or more lots.

The total realization was \$49,330 for the 700 hundred lots that sold.

Those lots had listed catalog values or estimates of \$79,000. There were many bargains!

The 113 lots that did not sell had catalog values or estimated of over \$23,000. Some rather large items were among the unsold. As usual, it appears that condition problems were the chief reason some lots did not sell.

Once the compiling and distributing of the catalog was over, this year's Sale proceeded remarkably smoothly and quickly. Our new auction software made very easy such tasks as bid management, closing the book, preparing invoices and preparing reports for consigners. Consequently, we were able to wrap up in record time the distribution of lots and the payments from buyers and to consigners.

Dick Salz organized the mailing out

of lots at his house in San Francisco. Member George Campbell came from the East Coast for a long weekend and provided a very great deal of help. Member Russ Samuels and his wife, Kathy, Dick's stamp-collecting neighbors Ed and Judy Jarvis, and yours truly packed material and calculated postage amounts for many hours on the Saturday after the Sale closed. Then on Sunday, Dick and George took all the mail to the Post Office for the big task of getting all those certified and registered items into the mail system. Many thanks to each of them for their very fine work.

This year no lots were withdrawn by consigners and no lots were returned by successful bidders for any reason. With the exception of one invoice for less than \$19, all transactions for both buyers and consigners have been

(continued on page 43)

## Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S. issues -  
1924 - 1933

### Part V - Not Fakes but Wrong Font Varieties in the Sharp A Overprint Series

This article serves as the transition from the series of overprints on U.S. stamps with the flat A overprints (Scott numbers 70 - 81) to those with sharp A overprints (Scott nos. 84 to 104, plus 115 and 116), and is focused on certain of the overprints that are different. But just because they look funny, doesn't mean they are fakes. In fact they may be desirable and collectable "wrong font" CANAL or ZONE varieties. Of course, they also might look funny, but be examples of stamps with fake overprint.

These have been written about before in *Canal Zone Stamps* and the *CZP*. (See articles by Brett *CZP* 10:6-7 and Plass *CZP* 29:25, 33-34.) But many collectors are still puzzled by these varieties. As a result this article will elaborate on the characteristics of these varieties, will illustrate them in blown-up form, and will provide new information that sheds added light on finding these varieties, but at the same time raises questions.

We start by looking at the normal sharp A overprints, and comparing them side-by-side with wrong font varieties, given in Fig. 1. My normal advice to collectors for spotting these varieties is to hold the stamp away from you at arms length; you will notice a wrong font just looks funny, especially if you have a normal copy next to it for comparison. If you do this for the stamps illustrated in Fig.

1, you will notice the CANAL on the left stamp looks different (funny) compared to the CANAL on the two at right, and the ZONE at the right looks different than the ZONE on the two stamps at the left and center.

By enlarging a normal CANAL and the wrong font variety in Fig. 2, a direct comparison can be made of specific characteristics of the letters that identify a wrong font variety. The comparison starts with the letters that have diagonal strokes - the N and A's. In those letters, the relative

33-34) are of great value: 1) in the wrong font N, the bottom right tip extends below the horizontal line formed by the bottoms of the serifs of the A's, left part of the N, and L - in the normal it is in line; 2) the open part of the C is much more nearly closed in the wrong font variety, the tip of the bottom curved part of the C is nearly vertical, and the thickness of the letter is more nearly maintained out to the tip in the wrong font, but in the normal the opening in the C is not so close to closing, the bottom part of the C is not nearly vertical, and the tip comes to a thin point; 3) the serifs at the UL of the N and L have a sharp transition horizontal to the vertical or diagonal stroke, but in the normal that transition is in a gradual arc; and 4) the opening between the vertical stroke in the L and the serif at bottom right is wide and shows a pronounced flat region in the wrong font variety, but is nearly continuously curving in the normal overprint.

A similar comparison can be made for the ZONE overprint in Fig. 3. The characteristics of the N apply here.



Fig.2a. Blow up of normal sharp A CANAL overprint.



Fig.2b. Blow up of wrong font CANAL overprint.

thickness of the left-leaning diagonals are reduced in thickness in the wrong font, particularly when compared with the right leaning diagonals or vertical strokes on the same letters. The result is that in the wrong font variety, the thickness of the left diagonals and the vertical strokes and right diagonals is closer to being the same. In a similar manner, the vertical stroke in the L looks thinner in the wrong font.

The following additional tests (derived in part from Plass *CZP*: 29:25,



Fig.3a. Blow up of normal sharp A ZONE overprint.



Fig.3b. Blow up of wrong font ZONE overprint.

In addition, the bottom of the Z and E has an extended flat portion as it approaches the serif at lower right on the wrong font letters; the inside of the O is more nearly oval - on the normal the inner left and right of the oval are nearly vertical.



Fig.1. Normal sharp A CANAL ZONE overprint in center with wrong font CANAL on the left and wrong font ZONE on the right.

Further, in addition to the lower right tip of the N protruding below the horizontal line formed by the bottoms of the Z, left part of the N and E, the bottom of the O extends below the same line on the wrong font, but not on the ordinary overprint.

As this series is about telling good stamps from fakes, the stamp in Fig. 4 bears examination. Whether this stamp was intended to be a fake is not clear, but the shape of the letters looks like a wrong font. However, it is not genuine, as the overprint is



Fig. 4. Fake wrong font CANAL overprint on no. 95.

printed downhill, and is of the wrong size, with the CANAL measuring 11.2 mm, the ZONE 8.4 mm, rather than the normal 8.8 mm. If nothing else gives it away as a probable fake, the New York cds is a clear warning sign.

At the beginning of this article, I said that it would include new information about these elusive wrong font varieties. I added that this information raises some interesting questions. The information comes from three items in a recent New York auction, one of which is illustrated in Fig. 5. This is from a block of 12 of Scott. No. J20 that includes the plate block. It, like the other two lots in that sale, includes the two stamps adjacent to the "Bureau, Engraving and Printing" inscription, the small star and the plate number 6555. All three had a "funny" looking CANAL overprint in the position at the bottom of the plate number strip.

The blow up shown in Fig. 6 of the overprint on the bottom pair in Fig. 5 should help clarify what is "funny" about it. Those experienced in looking for a wrong font CANAL would look closely at the CANAL overprint, not-

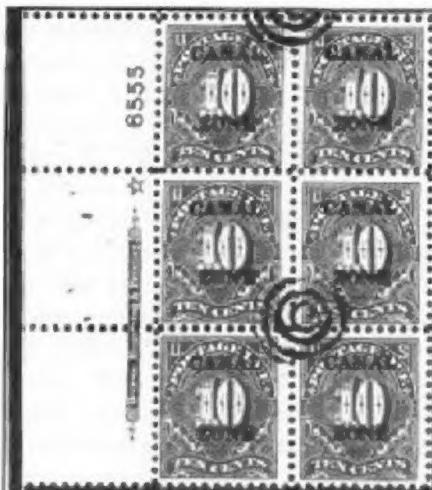


Fig. 5. Block of J20 including plate number strip of 3 at left.

ing the item is from the lower position in the Plate Block, and recalling that the known position of the wrong font variety is from position UL51, which is the lower left position in the plate block from the upper pane. This is a major factor that results in there being many more wrong font CANAL stamps in circulation, than wrong font ZONE examples, at least in unused condition.

ent, though difficult to spot because of the thickness of the letters of the overprint.

So it would seem that there exist wrong font CANAL overprints from the printing of J20 with the worn letters usually associated with the second printing.

Another stamp may shed further light to help understand this new information. Illustrated in Fig. 7 is a used copy of Scott no. 86. This seemingly unexciting example has three



Fig. 7. Scott no. 86 with natural SE at left, 2nd printing.



Fig. 6. Blow up of CANAL overprint on lower pair of Plate number strip.

It is also clear that the overprint is heavy, identifying this item as from the second printing. And the second printing is not known to have wrong font overprints; in fact it is believed not to have these varieties. So conventional wisdom would say this cannot be a wrong font CANAL.

Thus the dilemma. A close examination of this overprint, and especially a comparison with any of the others from this block, identifies the following characteristics of the wrong font CANAL. Most distinctive is the letter C, which is nearly closed and of nearly constant thickness on the stamp at left; open and more tapered at right. The tip of the N at left drops below the line, but not at right. The opening between the vertical stroke of the L and the serif at lower right is bigger and flatter. The other characteristics of the wrong font CANAL are pres-

very important characteristics. First, it has a straight-edge at left. Second, the hint of additional blue color all along the left straight-edge is the edge of the guideline, which means this straight-edge occurs naturally (as opposed to being from a cut down stamp) and further that this stamp is from a right pane. Third, the letters are heavy, being of the worn variety that characterizes the second printing of no. 86. And the CANAL overprint is in the wrong font, as the blow up

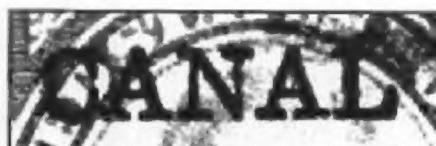


Fig. 8. Blow up of Canal overprint on SE copy of Scott no. 86, second printing.

(continued on next page)

in Fig. 8 will illustrate. (This image has been doctored by your Editor to bring out the black overprint by discriminating against the blue of the underlying stamp.) As only LL and LR panes were overprinted in the second printing of no. 86, this would seem to need to be from a LR pane. The characteristic lower arc of the C, protruding tip of the N, upper and lower serifs of several letters, and opening at the bottom right of the L leave little doubt this is a wrong font CANAL.

The question then, is how this will mesh with the conventional view that the wrong font CANAL variety comes from the first printing of the sharp A overprints that has the clean cut overprint with 9

mm spacing between CANAL and ZONE. These constituted the first shipment of the sharp A overprints which took place on May 19, 1925. The 1925 shipment included Scott nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 93, 94, 95, J18, J19, and J20. Each of these is known with the wrong font CANAL (UL51 or U51) and wrong font ZONE (UL82 or U82) varieties which occurred on the UL panes for those in vertical format, and upper panes for those in horizontal format. That shipment also included the ZONE ZONE errors on position UR 18 for those in vertical format. This error was noticed and most examples were removed from the panes before the stamps were sold to the public. (See CZS,

page 148.)

The second shipment of sharp A overprinted stamp consisted of two groupings of stamps on March 22, 1926. It included the second printings of nos. 86, J19, and J20, each with the 9 mm spacing between CANAL and ZONE, with the worn appearing overprint. The other two stamps in that shipment that were in the vertical format were nos. 84 and J18, and each had an 11 mm spacing. The shipment also included two values in the horizontal format that had not been overprinted previously, nos. 91 and 92.

A discussion of how these CANAL wrong fonts on the second printings might have arisen will be continued in a future issue.

## CZSG Mail Sale Report

continued from page 40

completed.

Among the strongest areas in this year's Sale were plate blocks, perf P's, precancels and covers. Certain other areas of this Sale, for example postal stationery and first flight covers, had relatively weak material. Generally, very few used stamps were submitted this year.

The sudden appearance of the Leeds Sale distracted at least a few of our bidders – including me. That Sale was to be held just a few days after the close of our Sale. Some bidders told me that they were not bidding on certain items in our Sale in order to concentrate on this other auction. The material in the first Leeds Sale was certainly worthy of a lot of attention and there is still a lot of interesting material still to be offered.

Below are some of the interesting realizations from our Sale. Since there is no buyer's commission in the CZSG Mail Sale, the amounts first listed are the winners' actual cost. The amounts in parenthesis are from the 2004 Scott Specialized Catalog. The absence of a catalog value means the item is not listed as such.

- 1, TG, NH, VF \$600 (\$550)
- 3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, damaged gum, H, F \$800 (\$725)
- 7, OG, NH, F-VF \$130 (\$175)

- 7, OG, H, F-VF \$85 (\$175)
- 10a, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, H, F-VF \$160 (\$225)
- 11a, ZONE antique, OG, H, almost VF \$95 (\$200)
- 11, F-VF on VF+ cover Empire 4/14/06 to US \$120 (\$50)
- 14, F, and 13, VG-F bl. 4, creases, on folded and toned U.S. postal stationery, Paraiso 4/4/06 w/ Crist. Rg XL-3 \$250 (\$n/a)
- 15, OG(!), HR, perfs. barely cut frame bot., o/w F \$1050 (\$2600)
- 18 & 18 var., P NAMA, latter the rare var. from pos. 90 (mentioned p. 309 of CZS), 17 bl. of 6 and 10, all F or better on F-VF cover Ancon Sta. A 7/20/06 to U.S. \$440 (\$n/a)
- 20a, CANAL antique, dried gum, H, F-VF in bl. 4 w/ 3 normals \$220 (\$335)
- 20b, ZONE antique. lt. TG, HR, F+ to VF \$145 (\$200)
- 22a, horiz. pair, imperf. between, OG, NH, VF \$900 (\$1300)
- 23a, horiz. pair, imperf. between, OG, HR, couple short perfs. o/w VF \$1400 (\$2000)
- 24, possible imperf. var. w/ large bot. margin, worn & scuffy, on F cover Las Cascadas 11/7/09 to Crist., comes with a "no opinion" Cert. \$340 (\$n/a)
- 33a, double overprint, TG, H, F \$200 (\$375)
- 39e, inverted center and inverted overprint, OG, H, F-VF \$440 (\$575)
- 46, 1st. pr., OG, NH, VF \$76 (\$160)
- 48, TG, H, F-VF 1st. pr. \$300 (\$500)
- 53, lt. TG, NH, VF+ \$105 (\$110)
- 56a, double overprint, OG, NH, F w/ margin \$270 (\$600)
- 58, mildly dist. OG, H, F-VF \$230 (\$275)
- 67, lt. TG, NH, barely F, \$260 (\$500)
- 71d, ZONE CANAL, OG, NH, F-VF \$420 (\$500)
- 80, 1st. pr., F-VF on VF philatelic cover Crist. 11/13/24 \$420 (\$n/a)
- 81, OG, H, VF \$76 (\$225)
- 87b, ZONE only, in pair w/ CZSG 87.5, OG, HR, VF but oxidizing, no longer listed by Scott \$2600 (\$n/a)
- C2, F-VF and 102 on U9, paying 20c rate, Gatun 9/11/31, cover sl. trimmed and a cr., o/w F+ \$170 (\$n/a)
- C15, perf. P, used, XF, \$72 (\$n/a)
- C17, perf. P, a blunt perf. o/w VF+ on a lightly toned cover w/ minor corner creases. Balb. Hts. 10/8/40 \$480 (\$n/a)
- C25a, horiz. pair, imperf. between, OG (a tiny dist.), NH, perfs. just in bot. \$525 (\$1000)
- 26.PD-A, Bliss provisional, used, VF \$360 (\$n/a)
- J11Cd, OG, LH, VF \$180 (\$200)
- OX2b, F \$160 (\$225)
- U12 (UPSS 31) mint entire, minor wrinkle & other tiny faults o/w F+ \$115 (\$200)
- UX3 (UPSS S6) mint entire, VF \$95 (\$200)

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